



## Radio Controlled Model Aeroplanes: What to Buy?



Model flying has been taking place on Epsom Downs from at least the 1940's. This was ratified with the formation of the Epsom Downs Model Aircraft Club in 2006 following consultation between Epsom/Ewell Borough Council and the British Model Flying Association (BMFA). We have an elected Committee and an active membership. This list is what we would recommend for your first plane. Don't be swayed by the small foam models you see advertised for beginners; these are quite useless in British weather.

### Membership/Insurance

Local byelaws require anyone flying a model aircraft on Epsom Downs to be a member of both Epsom Downs Model Aircraft Club and the British Model Flying Association (BMFA). BMFA membership also includes 3<sup>rd</sup> party insurance. Both EDMC and BMFA can be joined at the same time through [www.edmac.co.uk](http://www.edmac.co.uk) or email us at [membership@edmac.co.uk](mailto:membership@edmac.co.uk).

### Plane

We recommend the Seagull Boomerang 40. With a robust all-wood construction and 1.5 meters span semi-symmetrical wing section this I.C or electric powered model is well suited to British weather.



### Electric Power

Electric is very straightforward. It has the advantage of being reliable and clean but at the expense of shorter flight times. You will need the following:

- 800KV Brushless Outrunner motor
- 60A brushless speed controller (either with built in BEC or a separate BEC unit to avoid the need for a separate receiver battery)
- 4S 14.8v 3300mAh 40C LiPo flight Battery w/ XT60 connectors (ideally at least 3 batteries)
- IMAX B6 AC charger
- 12x6 electric propellor

### Radio

We would recommend the FLYSKY FS-I6X transmitter which comes complete with a receiver for only £65. It has a lot of features and will continue to be useful after you are flying solo. **Make sure you get a Mode 2 control stick configuration (throttle on the left)**. You will need two transmitters so they can be linked together for dual controls with the FlySky 4-Pin Trainer Cable (approx. £10).



You will also need:

- HiTEC HS-311 standard servos or similar, 4 for engine powered and 3x for electric.
- Heavy duty switch harness (for engine powered).
- Aileron servo extension lead, (approx. £5).

### Internal Combustion

Internal combustion (I.C) engines sound great but are a lot more involved and are a very much a 'hobby within a hobby'. We don't recommend IC for those who haven't already got a fair amount of mechanical knowledge. Still determined to fly I.C? Then read on for what we recommend. Typical trainer models use '40' sized engines (approx. 0.40 cu in / 6.5 cc).

- Force .46 Aero Engine (approx. £105)
- or SC SC46A-S (approx. £95)

### Engine starting equipment (only for I.C.)

- OS #6 or Enya #3 Glow Plug
- Glow plug wrench
- 1.5V Glow starter plus charger Fuel pump (*hand crank or electric*)
- Fuel line and fuel filter
- Fuel (categorically avoid fuels with castor oil – we recommend Optimix 5 or 12%).
- 12V 7Ah lead acid battery
- 12V Electric starter
- 11x6 or 11x7 I.C. propeller
- Flight box to carry all this in!



### Where to Buy

We always recommend supporting your local hobby shop. The nearest to EDMAC are Addlestone Model Centre ([www.addlestonemodels.co.uk](http://www.addlestonemodels.co.uk)) and ALIGN-TREX near Slough ([www.align-trex.co.uk](http://www.align-trex.co.uk)). Both do mail order. Electric specialists 4Max are also popular ([www.4-max.co.uk](http://www.4-max.co.uk)).

**Overall, you are looking at around £600 for electric and £750 for an internal combustion powered setup.** *Second hand can save a lot of money but seek the opinion of any potential purchase by someone experienced first.* Before buying book a trial flight on dual controls on one of our club trainers on [www.edmac.co.uk](http://www.edmac.co.uk). This is an excellent way to confirm this hobby is for you before fully committing.

**We look forward to seeing you at the flying site!**